

"The end of conflict on the African continent is a priority because the advancement of democracy, the establishment of an independent judiciary, the fight against HIV / AIDS and the protection of the environment cannot succeed in the face of conflict.."

Walter Kansteiner
Assistant Secretary
for African Affairs
Department of State



BACKGROUND

South Africa is a leader in the region in promoting regional stability. In July 2003, South Africa completed a one-year term as chair of the African Union. President Mbeki and South Africa led successful negotiations to resolve the internal and external aspects of the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The U.S. provided diplomatic and financial backing to this effort. The U.S. also supports South African-led negotiations to end civil strife in Burundi. We have assisted with the deployment of South African peacekeeping troops to both countries. We share a concern for democracy and the rule of law in Africa. Events in Zimbabwe undermine democracy, human rights, and rule of law, and directly impact South African and American interests. The U.S. thus continues a dialogue with South African leaders on what steps might be taken to address this multifaceted crisis.

To advance regional stability, the U.S. military and South African National Defense Force (SANDF) have increased their contacts at all levels and stepped up joint exercises that have been mutually beneficial and facilitated interoperability between our military forces. The Defense Committee of the bi-national Consultative Forum meets annually to discuss activities such as professional training, future exercises aimed at improved readiness, and procurement of military goods and services in both nations.

WHAT IS THE U.S. MISSION DOING?

- Since the onset of the food crisis in February 2002, the U.S. Government has been the single largest contributor of food assistance to the region, providing or pledging more than \$293 million in assistance.
- We contributed \$2 million to support South African-led negotiations to end Burundi's civil war and gave an additional \$6 million for South Africa's Special Protection Unit operating there.
- We manage \$7.7 million in Foreign Military Funds for equipment, defense reform, and aircraft maintenance to help South Africa respond to peacekeeping requests and future regional disasters.
- We gave \$900,000 in Enhanced International Peacekeeping Capabilities (EIPC) funds to improve South Africa's peacekeeping capacity and to develop a national peacekeeping training center in South Africa.
- The Department of Defense provided \$1 million to combat HIV/AIDS through awareness and prevention seminars and the chaplains program.
- International Military Education and Training (IMET) sends South Africans to the U.S. and brings U.S. teams to South Africa to train over 500 military and civilians from Southern Africa on a \$1.45 million budget in FY03.



United States Embassy in South Africa

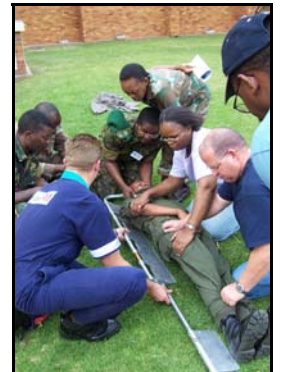
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- South Africa led successful negotiations to remove foreign troops from the DRC and establish an inclusive transitional government. The U.S. contributed \$1.5 million to support the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and \$800,000 to support South Africa's participation in the Third Party Verification Mechanism in the DRC.
- Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation John S. Wolf met April 16-17, 2003 with South African counterparts to discuss non-proliferation issues.
- U.S. Air Force (USAF) sent aircraft to the September 2002 Aerospace and Defense Show. USAF pilots and their South African Air Force counterparts conducted joint training.
- The U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and USAF Surgeon General led a delegation of 30 members to the International Congress of Military Medicine held in South Africa, September 2002.
- Embassy Pretoria contributed funds to upgrade facilities at two refugee resettlement centers.
- Five South African Air Force pilots completed instructor pilot training in the U.S.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- The U.S. will continue to work with South Africa to resolve regional crises.
- The U.S.-sponsored African Center for Strategic Studies will hold a Senior Leaders Seminar in 2004 in South Africa.
- SANDF-U.S. military exercises, such as FLINTLOCK and West African Training Cruise (aimed at improving amphibious joint operations), are scheduled for 2003.
- A visit to South Africa by a U.S. aircraft carrier has been agreed in principle by both countries.
- The U.S. is exploring the opportunity to assist in the deployment of South African forces in the DRC for UN peacekeeping.
- The U.S. and South Africa have agreed to a Ship Rider Program to expose South African naval members to a multiracial force.
- South Africa will host the MEDFLAG Exercise in 2004. This exercise will focus on disaster relief and medical assistance to local communities.
- The U.S. is planning to intensify its regional food security efforts, possibly to include high-level consultations.



EXCHANGE OF VISITS

U.S. and South Africa conduct regular exchanges, ranging from high level military officials to groups from defense colleges, to cadets and midshipmen. SANDF members study at several U.S. military institutions and installations.

SANDF personnel have taken a range of courses including: Defense Resource Management, Peace-keeping for Decision Makers, Leadership Program in Trauma and Disaster Systems Management, Civil Military Relations, Legal Military Justice, International Health Resource Management, and Equal Opportunity for Staff Advisors.

USEFUL WEBSITES

U.S. Department of State:

<http://www.usinfo.state.gov/topical/pol/>
<http://www.usinfo.state.gov/topical/pol/conflict/keynoggi>
[http://www.usinfo.state.gov/africa/peace & security](http://www.usinfo.state.gov/africa/peace%20&%20security)

Center for Defense Information:

<http://cdi.org/>

National Defense University:

<http://www.ndu.edu/>

U.S. Department of Defense:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/>